



U.S. Department of Justice

Ronald C. Machen Jr.
*United States Attorney for the
District of Columbia*

*Judiciary Center
555 Fourth St. N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20530*

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Monday, November 8, 2010

For Information Contact:

Public Affairs

(202) 514-6933

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District Man Sentenced in Bus-Driving Episode - Defendant Operated, Then Crashed Metrobus -

WASHINGTON - William Jackson, 19, today was placed on 18 months' probation and ordered to perform 200 hours of community service after earlier pleading guilty to a criminal charge stemming from an incident July 9, 2010, in which he illegally operated a Metrobus, U.S. Attorney Ronald C. Machen Jr. announced.

Jackson, of the District, pled guilty in September to a charge of unauthorized use of a vehicle. He was sentenced today in the Superior Court of the District of Columbia by the Honorable Judge Frederick H. Weisberg. The judge sentenced the defendant under the Youth Rehabilitation Act. In addition to community service, his probation is to include counseling.

According to a factual proffer presented at the plea hearing, Jackson entered the Metro Transit Bladensburg Bus Division, located at 2251 26th Street, NE, on July 9, 2010 wearing a Metrobus operator's uniform. He then boarded and operated a Metrobus, driving on public streets, picking up and dropping off patrons, and allowing the passengers to believe that he was a bus driver employed by the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA).

With passengers on board, Jackson attempted to make a turn on 17th Street SE, and collided with a tree on the side of the street, causing approximately \$15,000 in damage to the bus. After the crash, he attempted to leave the scene, and took off the bus operator's shirt. Jackson was stopped by Metro Transit Police a short distance from the bus's location and taken into custody.

Jackson was not employed by the transit authority, and at no time was he given permission to take, use, or operate a Metro Bus. He did not possess a valid commercial driver's license.

In announcing the sentence, U.S. Attorney Machen praised the work of the Metro Transit Police, particularly Detective Jeff Miller, Detective Michael Morehouse, and Officer Millard Shum, who investigated the case. He also cited the work of officers from the Metropolitan Police Department, who were first to respond to the scene, and Assistant United States Attorney Lara Worm, who prosecuted the case.

